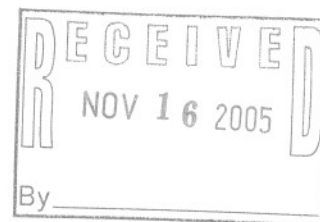


DIVISION OF FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL
OFFICE OF THE TROOP COMMANDER
TROOP K – ORLANDO



November 4, 2005

TO: Duty Officer Supervisor Tracy B. Turner
FROM: Chief James M. Lee *JML*
SUBJECT: Commendation – Hurricane Wilma

On Monday, October 24, 2005, the State of Florida was struck by Hurricane Wilma, the eighth hurricane to strike the state in 18 months. Hurricane Wilma was the most powerful hurricane on record, and made landfall on the West coast of Florida as a Category 3 storm. Hurricane Wilma moved quickly across the entire peninsula into the Atlantic Ocean, leaving behind a wide path of destruction that stretched from the Florida Keys to Brevard County.

The State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) was heavily damaged along with several of the local cell phone communication systems. The Lake Worth Regional Communication Center (LWRCC) was directly in the path of the hurricane. Ninety percent of the residents of Palm Beach and Broward County were left with no electricity as was the Troop K and L Communication Center. The communication link between the troopers working the Orlando area and the LWRCC was non-functional.

As the Duty Officer Supervisor in the Orlando Regional Communication Center (ORCC) on the morning of the hurricane's approach, you enthusiastically pre-planned a course of action in the event of a communication failure for the troopers working the Turnpike. You had pre-selected a radio channel for the troopers and set-up a workstation with the Turnpike Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) to facilitate dispatch and simplify post storm call tracking.

As the storm impacted the Palm Beach area, the communication system link was impaired by the severe weather. The decision was made to implement the alternative communication plan. You ensured it was completed in a professional and seamless manner, and that the channel was adequately staffed throughout the incident.

You are to be commended for your actions and response to this incident, your commitment to the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol and the citizens of the State of Florida.

cc: Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Lt. Colonel Kenneth C. Howes
Lt. Colonel Rick S. Gregory
Major Cyrus R. Brown
Captain David M. McCrystal
Chief Duty Officer Margaret E. Goodman